Community Schools – National Forum 2016 – April 6-8, Albuquerque, VS.

“Rising together – Learning, across School, Family, and Community”

http://www.cvent.com/events/community-schools-national-forum-2016/agenda-131ce64fd1bf48818d2a54d3eb1924c3.aspx

Thursday, April 7, 2016 – Focus Sessions – 10u15-11u45

Community Schools Around the World

- Alan Dyson, University of Manchester
- Lynne Heath, University of Manchester
- Hal Lawson, University of Albany
- Patricia Lamarre, Community Learning Centre Initiative
- Paule Langevin, Community Learning Centre Initiative
- Dolf van Veen, Netherlands Center of Education and Youth Care
- Lia Blaton, Centre for Diversity & Learning, Universiteit Gent

As the search for new and better school designs has gone global—with special interest in international success stories in Finland, Singapore, and Canada—the time has arrived for American community school leaders to examine, evaluate, and learn from prominent international exemplars. This session features advanced exemplars from Canada, Belgium, The Netherlands, and England. It sets the stage for cross-national collaborations, innovation exchanges, and lesson drawing.

Presentations

A New Model for a Community School with an Area-based Improvement Plan in Manchester, England

Presenters: Alan Dyson & Lynne Heath – University of Manchester

The Progressive Development and Scale-up of Community Learning Centers in Quebec, Canada.

Presenter: Paule Langevin, Community Learning Centre Initiative

Defining Features of, and Lessons Learned From, 300 plus Community Schools in the Netherlands

Presenter: Dolf van Veen, Netherlands Center of Education and Youth Care

The Progressive Development of Community Schools in Ghent, Belgium

Presenter: Lia Blaton, Centre for Diversity and Learning, Universiteit Gent
The Progressive Development of Community Schools in Ghent, Belgium

Presenter: Lia Blaton, Centre for Diversity and Learning, Universiteit Gent

This presentation describes how the City of Ghent, a city in Flanders (Belgium), has uniquely developed and scaled up the concept of community schools. Inspired initially by the community schools movement in the Netherlands, leaders for this innovation developed their own design and implementation strategy. These leaders’ developmental story covers 15 years and identifies key features of this approach as well as the different phases in its development. One noteworthy feature of this exemplar is the neighborhood-oriented model of community schools. In this model, all primary schools and participating organizations in the selected geographical area (neighborhood) are included. This chapter provides valuable insights in the pioneering work at the local level in which bottom-up initiatives in different neighborhoods, jointly developed by educators and human services providers, are progressively supported by local policy makers and aldermen (local politicians). Ghent’s leaders opted to provide funds for infrastructure supports and resources, with a special priority for the community school coordinator, emphasizing the importance of cross-boundary work, coordination and resource maximization. The authors conclude with an overview of lessons learned, pointing to factors that can further support the development and sustainability of the community school initiatives that serve children and adults, while strengthening their schools and neighborhoods.


We would like to thank Ruud Van de Velde, Teamleader Community Schools Ghent and Joke Blomme, co-ordinator Community School Sluizeken Tolhuis Ham of the Pedagogical Guidance Service (Pedagogische Begeleidingsdienst – PBD) City of Ghent for their input for and comments on this article.
The Progressive Development of Community Schools in Ghent, Belgium

Blaton Lia
Centre for Diversity & Learning, Ghent University
Community Schools National Forum 2016, April 6-8, Albuquerque
Community Schools in Flanders

• Belgium = federal state
  – Flemish Government: education

• Community Schools?
  – Policy level
    • 2004: Policy paper, Flemish minister of Education
    • 2006-2009: support to pilot projects (Education + youth)
    • 2009-2014: Policy papers various domains + support to projects (participation decree- youth)
    • 2014-2019: only in Brussels/sports: after school sports + task of municipalities
  – Cities/municipalities: flanking educational policy – supporting community schools
    • F.e. Ghent
  – Educational networks: developed a vision – support schools “on demand”
Figure 6.1 The Community School Model

- AIM
- CONTENT
- ORGANIZATION

- Health
- Participation
- Development of Talent
- Preparing for Future
- Safety
- Broad Development Of Children And Youngster
- Broad Network
- Broad Learning And Living Environment

- Touchstone
- Diversity
- Connections
- Participation
Community Schools (Brede School): Reference Framework

What are community schools?

- **Aim**: Broad development of children & youngsters
  - Health | safety | Participation | Development of talents | Preparing for the future
- **Content**: Broad learning and living environment
- **Organisation**: Broad network

Touchstones:
- Diversity
- Connections
- Participation

Local Context
Community Schools in Ghent
Community Schools in Ghent

• Disadvantaged neighbourhoods
• Local context – needs/opportunities
• Co-ordinator/neighbourhood
• Realising development opportunities for children & youngsters
Community Schools in Ghent

• Five pillars
  – Interaction between school, home and neighbourhood
  – Social cohesion and neighbourhood improvement
  – The broad development of the child
  – Parental involvement
  – Make best use of buildings
Community Schools in Ghent

Figure 6.2 Developmental Phases for Community Schools in Ghent

LOCAL INITIATIVES
- Local initiatives: Cooperation between education, welfare, sports, youth...
  In different neighbourhoods in Ghent

SUPPORT TO LOCAL INITIATIVES
- Project subsidies for early community schools (funding from different resources)
- Flemish government: Support to community schools + development of vision on community schools

LOCAL INITIATIVES
- City invests in community schools.
- Support-structure
- Team of community school co-ordinators at the city
- Setting up community schools in neighbourhoods

EXTENDING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
- New neighbourhoods
- Analysing the state of community schools at school level
- Development of community schools 2.0 (different ways)
Figure 6.3 A System of Roles, Relationships, and Responsibilities

- CITY OF GHENT
  - Department of Education, Training & Youth Affairs
    - Educational Guidance Department
  - Community School Team
    - Community School Team Co-ordinator
      - Community School Co-ordinator
        - Community School Steering Committee
        - Community School Partners
        - Community School Working Groups
Community Schools in Ghent: Sluizeken-Tolhuis-Ham
Community Schools in Ghent Sluizeken-Tolhuis-Ham

• Started as “your child grows up in this neighbourhood”
  – 1997 – collaboration actors in neighbourhood
  – 2004 Subsidies – and supported by educational advancement work
  – 2004 - ... City of Ghent
# Broad living and learning environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broadening</th>
<th>New contexts</th>
<th>Existing activities/Organisations</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening</td>
<td>Barriers</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Environment/Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Broad Learning</td>
<td>Participate</td>
<td>Meet</td>
<td>Practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Schools in Ghent Sluizeken-Tolhuis-Ham

• Local context
  – Which partners? What are needs ...

• Actions
  – Road Safety
  – Reading aloud at Home
  – Children’s Library Baloe (also: toys)
  – Children’s theatre
Community Schools in Ghent Sluizeken-Tolhuis-Ham

• Actions
  – Teachers and Workers at Base become Acquainted with the Neighbourhood
  – Folk Games
  – Procession
Community Schools in Ghent Sluizeken-Tolhuis-Ham

• Actions
  – After School Leisure Activities
  – Health
  – School visit Tour
  – Sports: Vita Mike
Bibliography


www.bredeschool.org (in Dutch)
Thank you for your attention

• Question?
• Contact

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www.diversiteitenleren.be
www.bredeschool.org